

the insects in their rice fields and they also say it is good fertilizer. The trees vary in size but a well grown tree will yield about two bushels of the nuts after the hulls are taken off. I don't know really what the average yield is but it is considerably less I imagine than the above figures. I have inquired the age of the tree and old men have told me that they live and bear for several tens of years, as they put it. I have inquired concerning the leaves being poisonous and all say that they are not."

ITALY. Rome. Dr. Gustav Eisen writes July 2d: "There are two vegetables here which we do not grow in California but which are of special merit. One is the well-known 'Finochio' with somewhat horizontally projecting stems, and entirely unlike the more common variety with upright stems, certainly infinitely superior. The other kind is 'Zucchini', a kind of squash, eaten while the flower is yet fresh. It resembles a cucumber very much in shape and seems in taste nearly as good as the variety found in Egypt. Why these two kinds should never have reached California, I am at a loss to know."

NICARAGUA. TUNKY. Minnesota Mine. Mr. Paul J. Fox writes June 23, in reply to requests for information in regard to teosinte: "The amount of cultivation of land in this part of Nicaragua is exceedingly small, practically all of the provisions for mines, except meat, being imported from the United States. I have travelled a good deal over this part of Nicaragua and all the corn I have seen put together would not amount to even a small farm in the United States. However, I laid the matter before Mr. M. T. Snyder, about one day's journey or say twenty miles from me, and a man of very extensive experience in Central America, who tells me the plant you describe is grown on the Pacific water-shed of Nicaragua. It is known under the name of 'maisia' and is grown to provide against a drought that would kill the maize crop. If the season turns out wet, it does not do well but in that case, they have of course, the maize. The rainfall here is heavy. At the Bonanza mine where records are kept, it is shown to be some 135 inches per annum, so that it is easily seen that maisia would scarcely be a crop for the Atlantic coast. Communications between here and the Pacific side are very difficult, involving a dangerous journey by mule-back of from 12-18 days, and a journey rarely made by a white foreigner. In fact it is much longer and harder than a journey to the United States. Communications with the "interior" (Pacific slope) are generally had by going to the sea, coasting down to San Juan del Norte and over the route of the Nicaragua canal with many changes of steamers, or else by Panama, or even by New Orleans and San Francisco."

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